

Date: December 24, 2015
To: Lewis County Planning Commission
From: Fred Evander, Senior Long Range Planner
RE: **COUNTYWIDE PLANNING POLICIES**
Attachments: Countywide Planning Policies (16 Pages)

The purpose of this staff report is to re-introduce the Countywide Planning Policies to the Planning Commission. The Commission previously discussed the Countywide Planning Policies at the meetings of July 14, 2015 and September 22, 2015.

ISSUE

The Countywide Planning Policies establish a framework for the development of comprehensive plans in Lewis County. The policies are adopted by the County and reviewed annually by the Planned Growth Committee, a committee composed of individuals that represent each incorporated community. The Planned Growth Committee looks at possible urban growth area boundary changes proposed by the cities and reviews any new Office of Financial Management (OFM) Growth Management population projections for the county. The Planned Growth Committee then forwards its recommendations about potential changes to document to the Planning Commission for eventual adoption by the Board of County Commissioners.

As part of the 2015 review, the Planning Commission identified a variety of potential issues with the Countywide Planning Policies as written. Issues included:

- Concerns about how the policies would affect the possibility of constructing a sewer in Packwood;
- Concerns about why the inclusion of pressure requirements were not included in standards for water system expansions (in 2.5.b.1)
- Considerations about the population projections at the end of the document.

A complete depiction of the conversation from the meeting of July 14, 2015 is available in the minutes of the meeting (accessible online at <http://lewiscountywa.gov/communitydevelopment/planning-commission>).

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Planning Commissioners revisit the Countywide Planning Policies as written, and identify any potential issues to raise with the Planned Growth Committee as part of the 2016 annual review. A discussion of the Countywide Planning Policies will occur at the Planning Commission meeting on January 12, 2016.